Fireworks: Make Your Fourth of July Happy and Safe

Fireworks, picnics, parades and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July. Fireworks are thrilling and beautiful… and dangerous. Here's how to keep your loved ones from getting burned or blinded.

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Fireworks: General Safety Tips

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.

Fireworks: General Safety Tips, cont.

- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Fireworks should be used only with extreme caution. Older children should be closely supervised, and younger children should not be allowed to play with fireworks.

Fireworks Safety: Mishaps Data

Although most fireworks can be relatively safe with proper and careful usage, some fireworks, such as illegal fireworks, present substantial risks that can result in deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns.

☹ **On In 2006, eleven people died and an estimated 9,200 were treated in emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries in the United States.**

Fireworks Safety: Mishaps Data, cont.

An estimated 5% of fireworks-related injuries treated in emergency departments required hospitalization.

☹ More than two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries in 2006 occurred between June 16 and July 16. Of these, one out of every three people injured were children under 15 years of age. About three times as many males were injured as females. Young people under twenty sustained nearly half (47%) of all injuries from fireworks.

☹ People actively participating in fireworks-related activities are more frequently and severely injured than bystanders.

Fireworks Safety: What's Illegal?

The Federal Hazardous Substances Act prohibits the sale of the most dangerous types of fireworks to consumers, including:

- large reloadable mortar shells
- cherry bombs
- aerial bombs
- M-80 salutes

larger firecrackers containing more than two grams of powder (legal firecrackers typically use 50 milligrams or less of powder)

- mail-order kits designed to build these fireworks

All fireworks must carry a warning label describing necessary safety precautions and instructions for safe use.

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Fireworks Safety: Planning Your Own Show?

Before using fireworks, make sure they are permitted in your state or local area. Attending a professional display is the safest way to go.

Many states and local governments prohibit or limit consumer fireworks, formerly known as class C fireworks, which are the common fireworks and firecrackers sold for consumer use.

Consumer fireworks include shells and mortars, multiple tube devices, Roman Candles, rockets, sparklers, firecrackers with no more than 50 milligrams of powder and novelty items such as snakes and airplanes.

Fireworks Safety: State Laws

33 States Allow Some Or All Types Of Consumer Fireworks (formerly known as Class C fireworks):

Alabama
Alaska
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Florida
Hawaii
Idaho
Indiana
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Mexico
North Carolina
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Oregon
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming
District of Columbia

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Fireworks Safety: State Laws, cont.

Nevada Has No Fireworks Laws Except at County Level (CPSC regulations still apply)

7 States Allow Only Sparklers and/or Other Novelties:

Connecticut	Illinois	Iowa
Maine	Maryland	Ohio
Pennsylvania		

9 States That Ban All Consumer Fireworks (Including Those Allowed By CPSC Regulations):

Arizona	Delaware	Georgia
Massachusetts	Minnesota	New Jersey
New York	Rhode Island	Vermont